

RICHMOND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting minutes, Tuesday April 13, 2021

7:30 PM

Due to restrictions in place for COVID-19, and in accordance Bill H.681 this meeting will be held by login online and conference call only. **You do not need a computer to attend this meeting.**

You may use the "Join By Phone" number to call from a cell phone or landline. When prompted, enter the meeting ID provided below to join by phone. Please contact Josh Arneson at 802-434-5170 or at jarneson@richmondvt.gov or Judy Rosovsky at 802-324-3473 or at judy.rosovsky@comcast.net with any questions on how to join this meeting.

Time: Apr 13, 2021 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting Online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83978845117>

Meeting ID: 839 7884 5117

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kyPWunFWB>

Dial by your location: +1 929 205 6099 US (New York) (Dial this number then enter the meeting code).

Agenda:

7:30 p.m. Public comments and introductions

From the Commission:

Judy Rosovsky, Max Krieger, Ibit Wright, Bob Low

From the public:

Jon Kart, Rebecca Butterfield, David Thomas

7:35 Appoint minute taker

- Max Krieger is taking minutes

7:45 Additions, amendments to agenda - none

7:50 Updates –

- **CRF application for EAB Preparedness Plan matching funds – approved by SB**
 - o Initial infestation is spreading so action is important
 - o Phase 2 → hiring contractor for potential hazard trees
- **Buttermilk plans**
 - o Bard Hill from Selectboard, Katie Mather & Judy were concerned about plans which may allow flood waters to inundate town parking lot adjacent to the post office
 - (the plan would seemingly impact wetlands)

- **Hillview parcel**
 - Judy is going to talk with Bill Atwood in May about different options for the 2nd Hillview parcel
 - The parcel across the street is still owned by John Atwood and there is a potential for conservation
 - Question from Rebecca Butterfield → would it be beneficial to talk with RLT/VLT about potential conservation value?
 - Judy agrees and has talked to Bob Heiser about that
 - There is 191 acres (which could spark the interest of VLT)
- **Fern signage**
 - Ibit put up 6 signs on Cochran Road
 - Covered most of the area along the Winooski River Trail
 - Ian Stokes has some signs as well to use
 - Remaining signs are in the town office
 - TNC property:
 - Safford Trails: Lower Safford is mainly where the interest would be.
 - Max can do lower Safford
 - Judy will do TNC land
- **RCC/CRF budget**
 - The \$315,000 in the Conservation Reserve Fund includes the \$150,000 earmarked for the Gillett Pond dam.
 - Town Manager Josh Arneson confirmed there is a \$500 annual allotment in town budget which does not accrue over time
- **Request for volunteers from J Kart for Volunteers Green tree planting**
 - 29th and 30th → need folks to help supervise kids who will be planting trees
 - 8:30am – 12:30pm
- **Parking plans**
 - Excellent work by Cara LaBounty and Pete Gosselin and the Parking Committee on scoping out potential additional parking areas.
 - (largely to address increased recreational needs)
 - Jon Kart commented on various parcels that could have parking
- **EAB mailing**
 - Ibit and Judy are working with Caitlin Littlefield who designed an informational card regarding the EAB. Used Stillwater Graphics in Barre. 2230 6.25X11 cards.
 - Mailing will go to Jonesville & Richmond P.O. boxes
 - Selectboard approved the funding
 - Just waiting for check approval and mailing can go forward. This process did not go smoothly and thanks to Caitlin Littlefield for using her own money to pay the post office.

8:15 Richmond Bike/Ped/Trails

- Max attended public meeting
- Phase 1 is everything north of the river
 - Includes ideas for linking town to Park and Ride and ACF
- Phase 2 (which now has approval) is everything south, but has not yet been implemented
- **AOT** improvement of Rt. 2
 - AOT's plan largely ignores Richmond's asks
 - Selectboard is meeting with Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission trying to engage with VTRANS and wants improvements
 - Richmond needs to put more pressure on VTrans/AOT to do better improvements
 -

8:20 Conservation/Trails gathering

- Max spoke with RMT and RLT about this
- Goals for meeting
- Trails!
 - o Maintenance
 - o Ecological design
 - o Ethic of use
- Connectivity
- Utilizing each other's resources for land acquisition, easements, land-owner agreements
- Next meeting we will discuss other goals for the larger meeting

8:30 Green Up Day -bags and sign up at Town Office lobby; RCC tasks?

- Green up day is May 1st
- There is a website and app to sign up for various roads around Richmond
<https://greenup.powershift.info/you-can-make-a-difference/>
- RCC should advertise on FPF and perhaps times ink
- MMU → students want to help with greenup... what should we do with them? Where to direct them?
 - o Discussion of ongoing partnership with MMU students for conservation work
 - o (when we need volunteers we could tap into this resource)
 - o Could also use Andrews Community Forest as a "study area"
 - Ibit could tap into UVM resources
 - Ethan Tapper may be interested
 - State Climatologist

8:40 Fern overcollection response; Duncan Murdoch group; suggestion from public re chain

- In addition to signage, we should have a specific response
- Depends partially on who owns the land and what signage is in place
- We need to have conversation with Richmond police, as well as Town manager to see what they would need in place to have this be enforceable
- Should RCC members be alerted (or available for contact) if someone sees an issue? (perhaps only to alert police etc.)
- Could also talk with TNC about how they enforce
 - o There are folks from TNC that are concerned
- Duncan Murdoch is getting a group together to discuss this very issue (Judy hasn't yet attended, but will ask we be added to their communication list)
- Can RCC draft an ordinance to accomplish this?
 - o Jon Kart recommends discussing with Police Chief prior to drafting...

9:00 Matters arising

- Champlain Valley Conservation Partnership → info from Judy
 - o Mission is to conserve/restore natural resources along borders of towns/municipalities
 - o If members (or members of the public) are interested, they can find out more from Ashley Parker aparker@sburl.com
 - o The commission is happy to participate when possible (or individual members)
 - Judy will ask when next meeting is and request invitation
- Need to recruit people to the Commission so we can fill it up
- General discussion on use of CRF funds
 - o What is the limit on the types of use for funds?
 - Trails
 - Historic preservation

- Working lands
 - Etc.
 - Should discuss further...
- Improvements to RCC website (on Town website)
 - Ask town for better access \ Ask Josh to post RCC town meeting annual report on RCC website.

Ibit saw a Moose!

9:05 Adjourn

Minutes (formal or informal) are due at the town offices 5 days after any public meeting. Please send me a draft within 5 days from this meeting (by 4/18/2021).